



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
22 DECEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

The Viet Cong seems to be pulling off an increasing number of successful small-scale attacks. Concern over the psychological impact of these actions on the population has been reported from most sections of South Vietnam. In some areas, Viet Cong harassment has produced higher prices--for which the government and the US are receiving the lion's share of the blame.

2. Communist China

Peking's grain imports for the first half of next year may reach a record four million tons. This is about a million tons more than China imported during the first half of 1966. Australia and Canada, China's biggest suppliers, are now being asked for much more than they had earlier been scheduled to send.

The Chinese are scouring the world for still more. The bumper crops this year in the Soviet Union will not help. The Chinese have been too prideful to seek Soviet grains for some years.

3. Cuba

Castro has been having trouble with openly defiant students at Havana University. For the university elections early this month the students had insisted on nominating candidates with what regime leaders called "untested political reliabilities."

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Castro apparently won this round and the affair is being muted. However, he must realize from his own violent and rebellious student days that the problem will not simply go away.

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4. Cuba

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5. Egypt

Nasir has stepped up his pressures against Saudi Arabia. Cairo's propaganda is working hard to create an impression of growing domestic dissatisfaction in the kingdom. A series of recent bomb explosions there was apparently the work of Egyptian-trained Yemeni terrorists sent in for the job. Nasir is also entertaining ex-King Saud, whom King Faysal ousted, but it is hard to see how Egyptian collusion with Saud can be made ideologically convincing.

Faysal's most obvious recourse is to heat it up for the Egyptians in Yemen. So far he has resisted demands for the resumption of open warfare by the Yemeni royalists, but he may not hold the line much longer.

6. Jordan

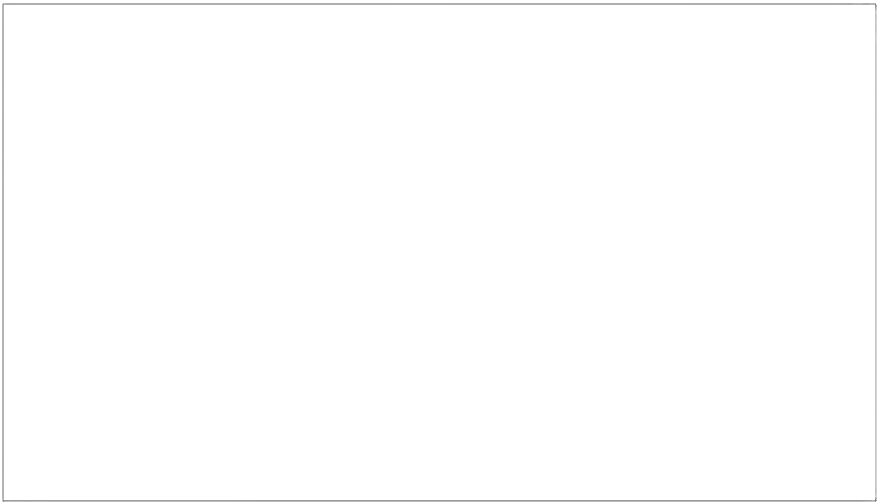
King Husayn today strongly reaffirmed his support for Prime Minister Tal, a principal target of his foreign and domestic enemies. By asking Tal to form a new government, Husayn served notice that he is in no mood to buckle under on basic issues.

We suspect that there will be an effort to appease the restive Palestinians of west Jordan by including some of their representatives in the new cabinet. It will be exceedingly difficult, however, to get any respected Palestinian to serve under Tal.

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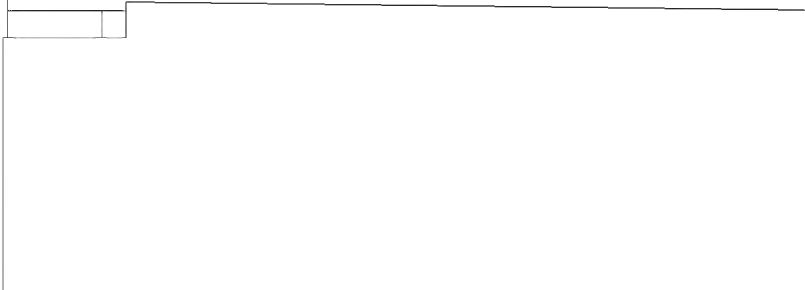


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8. Soviet Union



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